

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus for a rapid coupling for transferring gaseous and/or liquid fluids, comprising a tubular housing (11) and a slide (41) which is mounted in a manner that enables it to be displaced relative to the housing and which is coupled with a lever mechanism (42), ~~characterized in that~~wherein the lever mechanism (42) comprises at least one pivoting lever (43) which is laterally mounted on the housing (11).

2. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein two pivoting levers (43) are provided on both sides on the housing (11) in a mirror-inverted manner.

3. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the front surface of the pivoting lever(s) (43) pressurizes a slide ring (40) of a rotary transmission leadthrough on the outlet side.

4. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 3~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the lever mechanism (42) comprises two superimposed levers (47, 47'), with the inner lever (47) resting on a roller (46) which is connected with the slide (41).

5. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the contact surface of the lever (47) is arranged towards the roller (46) as a wedge surface (47a).

6. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the lever (47) is guided in a connecting link (49) of the housing (11).

7. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein an outlet valve (25) and an inlet valve (35) are provided in the housing, between which there is arranged a venting valve (60) which can be actuated by the slide (41).

8. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the pivoting lever (43) is connected with a hand lever (50) via a lever (47'), with preferably a pin (48') being provided as a joint, on which the second lever (47) of the lever mechanism (42) is also mounted.

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9. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 8, characterized in that~~wherein the front surface (43') of the pivoting lever (43) comprises an initially flatter incline for force multiplication on the slide ring (40).

10. (Currently amended) An actuating apparatus according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~wherein the connection process of the rapid coupling (10) is controlled at least partly by the lever mechanism (42), especially the lever (47) guided in the connecting link (49) or a switching valve cooperating with the hand lever (50), especially the sequential control of the valves (25, 35 and/or 60) within the housing (11).